

DELAWARE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Minutes DRAFT

2nd Floor Cabinet Room
The Townsend Building
401 Federal St., Dover, DE 19901

March 21, 2019
5:00 P.M.

Members Present: Candice Fifer, Vincent Lofink, Dr. Audrey Noble, Wali Rushdan II, Whitney Sweeney

Members Absent: Nina Lou Bunting

Others Present: Rae Mims, Deputy Attorney General, representing the SBE; Jenna Ahner, SBE Executive Director; Dawn McHugh, SBE Administrative Assistant; Leroy Travers, DOE; Emily Cunningham, DOE, as proxy for Secretary Bunting; Deb Stevens, DSEA; Stephanie Ingram, DSEA; Susan Haberstroh, DOE; Maria Locuniak, DOE; Luke Rhine, DOE; Representative Kim Williams; Mary Ann Mieczkowski, DOE.

I. Opening

A. Call to Order: Ms. Sweeney called the meeting to order at 5:01p.m.

B. Roll Call

Ms. McHugh conducted roll call for the meeting with 5 members present (Fifer, Lofink, Noble, Rushdan, Sweeney).

C. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Lofink and seconded by Mrs. Fifer to approve the March 21, 2019 agenda as presented. *The motion carried* (5 Yes to 0 No – Fifer, Lofink, Noble, Rushdan, and Sweeney).

D. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for February 21, 2019

A motion was made by Mr. Lofink and seconded by Mrs. Fifer to approve the February 21, 2019 minutes as presented. *The motion carried* (5 Yes to 0 No – Fifer, Lofink, Noble, Rushdan, and Sweeney).

II. State Board Business

A. Committee Reports

Board members provided updates on recent Board business and committee participation. Ms. Sweeney provided an update on touring Junior Achievement with Secretary Bunting and work

underway for the P-20 Council. Mr. Rushdan provided an update on the Equalization Committee. Mr. Lofink provided an update on the Family Services Cabinet Council Town Hall meeting and the Career and Technical Education Subcommittee. Mrs. Fifer provided an update on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Advisory Committee and the Drug and Substance Abuse Prevention Advisory Group.

B. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Ahner provided an update on recent activities in her office.

III. Secretary's Report

Dr. Susan Bunting's report was posted online for the Board to review.

IV. Presentations

A. Delaware Perkins V Transition Plan

Mr. Rhine, Director Career & Technical Education and STEM Initiatives, Department of Education, provided an overview of the Strengthening Career & Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V). Mr. Rhine reviewed the requirements for the Perkins V Transition Plan and the full Four Year State Plan. Mr. Rhine provided an overview of the information provided in the draft Transition Plan.

The Board asked questions regarding the accountability model, equity and enrollment, engagement of parents and students in the selection of a career pathway, the role of school counselors in advising students, program quality monitoring, connecting students to options post-graduation, engaging a representative from the Department of Corrections, distribution of post-secondary funding, the use of Reserve Funds, the calculation of the figure for Maintenance of Effort, and how to design pathways so that they equip students for jobs that may not currently exist.

Mr. Rhine outlined next steps. The draft Transition Plan will be sent to the Governor's Office and posted for public comment. The public comment period will close on April 10th. The Transition Plan will be presented to the State Board for action on April 18th. The State Board of Education CTE Subcommittee will develop the full Four Year State Plan during Fall 2019 and Winter 2020.

B. Delaware Autism Program Update

Ms. Mieczkowski and Dr. Locuniak, Exceptional Children Resources, Department of Education, provided an overview of the Delaware Autism Program and the State Board of Education's role in next steps.

The Board asked questions regarding funding for the Delaware Autism Program's Director position, the difference in services provided by state, county, and local programs, services to be provided through the Delaware Autism Program, responsibility for hiring for the Director, and whether national best practice was considered in the structure of the program.

Ms. Mieczkowski and Ms. Locuniak shared that the Department of Education and the Christina School District are convening stakeholders to revise the Director's job description. The proposed job description and draft MOU will be presented to the Board for approval at a future State Board of Education meeting.

C. Drug and Substance Abuse Prevention Advisory Group Update

Ms. Ahner provided background on the report produced through Senate Concurrent Resolution 69 of the 149th General Assembly.

Dr. Haberstroh, Director, School Support Services, Department of Education, provided an overview of the Drug and Substance Abuse Prevention Advisory Group and recommended next steps.

The Board asked questions regarding hour requirements, vaping and e-cigarettes, technology addiction, and the role of school counselors and social workers in supporting this work.

D. Presentation on Delaware's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Grant

Dr. Haberstroh presented on Delaware's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Grant. She provided an overview of the purpose of the grant, partnerships, goals, and grant activities.

The Board asked questions regarding expanding access for students in Sussex County and how programs and agencies are working together to move this work forward.

V. Charter Schools

A. Monthly Charter School Update

Mr. Travers, Charter School Office, Department of Education, provided an update on the work of his office. Mr. Travers provided an update on the grant received from US DOE.

The Board asked questions regarding the application process for sub-grants to be provided and how his office plans to expand seats in an equitable way.

Mr. Travers provided an update on ASPIRA Academy's major modification request.

Mr. Travers provided information on work underway in his office to monitor academic and financial improvement and success for schools. He noted that First State Military Academy has seen steady improvement in the last four months.

The Board asked if enrollment updates for charter schools could be provided in April and if governance will be considered in monitoring and supports provided by his office.

The Board asked for an update regarding Odyssey Charter School. Mr. Travers shared that his office is monitoring and will determine next steps.

VI. Department of Education Regulations

A. Regulations for Discussion and Action

1. Regulation 910 – Delaware Requirements for Issuance of the Secondary Credential

Ms. Cunningham, Department of Education, provided an overview of the regulation and indicated that the regulation is posted for public comment.

B. Public Comment on Department of Education regulations

No public comment was given.

VII. Formal Public Comment

Representative Kim Williams provided comment that sub-grants provided by the Charter Office are targeting high-performing charter schools, many of which have enrollment preferences. Representative Williams offered to share the final report of the Enrollment Preferences Task Force and the transcript for SB200, which authorized charter schools.

Representative Williams raised questions regarding next steps for the legislature in relation to the Delaware Autism Program.

VIII. State Board of Education Procedures Manual

Ms. Ahner provided an overview of proposed updates to the State Board's Procedures Manual.

The Board discussed the removal of language relating to consultants, time allowed for public comment, and the possibility of adding the Board's vision, mission, and guiding principles to the document. Ms. Cunningham shared the public comment process that is used for Joint Finance Committee and Department of Education public meetings.

A motion was made by Mr. Rushdan and seconded by Mr. Lofink to approve the State Board of Education Procedures Manual with public comment language updated to state "two minutes for individuals, and three minutes for agencies or organizations". ***The motion carried*** (5 Yes to 0 No – Fifer, Lofink, Noble, Rushdan, and Sweeney).

IX. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Rushdan and seconded by Mr. Lofink. ***The motion carried*** (5 Yes to 0 No – Fifer, Lofink, Noble, Rushdan, and Sweeney).

The meeting adjourned at 8:21p.m.

Digital recordings of the meeting can be found in the "audio recordings" section of the State Board of Education's website.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Cunningham

Secretary of Education's Designee for the March 21, 2019 State Board of Education meeting.